

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GABORO 03323 310928Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 /073 W

-----049963 311522Z /44

R 310620Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1348

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 3323

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BC

SUBJECT: JWANENG DIAMOND MINE AGREEMENT REACHED

REF: GABORONE A-24 OF MAY 6, 1977

1. DR. CHARLES JOHNSON, ECONOMIC ADVISER IN MINISTRY OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS, GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE OVER PHONE DECEMBER 29, 1977:

QUOTE

DR. CHIEPE, MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS, IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA AND DEBEERS CONSOLIDATED MINES ON THE BASIC FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF A LARGE DIAMOND MINE AT JWANENG. DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINE AND INFRASTRUCTURE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT FOUR YEARS. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE. END QUOTE

2. WHEN PRESSED FOR DETAILS, JOHNSON MERELY SAID THAT THE USE OF THE WORD "LARGE" MEANT NOTHING LESS THAN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SIZE OF ORAPA DIAMOND MINE ALREADY IN OPERATION.

3. FYI: EXPORTS OF DIAMONDS FROM THE ORAPA MINE IN BOTSWANA ARE VALUED AT THIRTY-TWO MILLION PULA FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1977, AND ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY SOME 80 PERCENT BY THE END OF 1978. ALBERTI

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIAMONDS, AGREEMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
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